

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1-8, 11-18, 21-27, 30, and 34 stand rejected. Claims 9-10, 19-20, 28-29, 31-33, and 35 are objected to. Herein, Claims 10, 20, and 29 have been canceled. Claims 1, 13, and 22 have been amended. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response, Claims 1-35 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claims, remarks, and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) Rejections

Claims 1-4, 13-15, and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams, U.S. Patent No. 6,631,508 (hereafter Williams). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Dependent Claim 10 depends only from Independent Claim 1. It was stated that Dependent Claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Herein, Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 10. Dependent Claim 10 has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-4 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 1. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 2-4 are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

Dependent Claim 20 depends only from Independent Claim 13. It was stated that Dependent Claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Herein, Independent Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 20. Dependent Claim 20 has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 14-15 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 13. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 14-15 are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

Dependent Claim 29 depends only from Independent Claim 22. It was stated that Dependent Claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Herein, Independent Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate all the

limitations of Dependent Claim 29. Dependent Claim 29 has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 23-24 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 22. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 23-24 are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 5-8, 11-12, 16-18, 21, 25-27, 30, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams, U.S. Patent No. 6,631,508 (hereafter Williams) in view of Perry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,678,877 (hereafter Perry). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Dependent Claims 5-8 and 11-12 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 1. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 5-8 and 11-12 are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

Dependent Claims 16-18 and 21 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 13. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 16-18 and 21 are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

Dependent Claims 25-27, 30, and 34 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 22. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 25-27, 30, and 34 are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

Objected Claims

Claims 9-10, 19-20, 28-29, 31-33, and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 10. Dependent Claim 10 has been canceled. Thus, Independent Claim 1 is allowable. Dependent Claim 9 is dependent on allowable Independent Claim 1. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claim 9 is patentable for the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 20. Dependent Claim 20 has been canceled. Thus, Independent Claim 13 is allowable. Dependent Claim 19 is dependent on

allowable Independent Claim 13. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claim 19 is patentable for the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 29. Dependent Claim 29 has been canceled. Thus, Independent Claim 22 is allowable. Dependent Claims 28, 31-33, and 35 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 22. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 28, 31-33, and 35 are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above claims, arguments and remarks overcome all rejections and objections. All remaining claims (Claims 1-35) are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 1-35) are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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